Amount allocated for construction of National Highway during the 7th Five Year Plan

4847. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the outlay of Seventh Five Year Plan for the expansion and conversion of National Highways according to 20 year framework of Planning Commission ;

(b) what is the total kilometers which have been converted into National Highway during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ;

(c) whether the amount allocated in the Seventh Plan for the Project has been spent ;

(d) the number of proposals which have been included for the expansion and conversion of National Highways of Gujarat during the Seventh Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The Planning Commission has not formulated any 20 year Road Development Plan for expansion or conversion of existing roads as National Highways. Notwithstanding this, an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crore was earmarked for declaration of new National Highways during the 7th Five Year Plan period by the Planning Commission.

(b) 1902 km.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The following two roads have been included in the National Highway grid in the 7th Five Year Plan in Gujarat viz :

(1) Ahmedabad-Vadodara Express-way NE 1, length 93 km.

(2) Bewar-Sirohi-Radhanpur NH 14, length 140 km.

Money deposited in Cooperative Banks by Seamen's Welfare Fund

4848. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of money deposited with many cooperative banks in the country, by the Seamen's Welfare Fund is blocked as unrecoverabale ;

(b) whether any investigation has been made by the Directorate General of Shipping on the placement of funds and if so, what are the details of the findings ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure proper and full recovery of funds for the Welfare of seamen and what interim steps relief Government are going to take to protect the families of seamen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The Seafarers Welfare Fund Society is a Society registered under Indian Societies Act, 1860 and funds of the Society are received from Shipowners. The affairs of the Society are vested in a Committee of Management consisting of representatives of Seafarers Unions, Merchant Navy Officers, Indian & Foreign Shipowners, and Government. A sum of Rs. 38.70 crores has been invested by the Society in Nationalised Banks, Public Sector Undertakings, Gove. Promissory Notes and Cooperative Banks.

Out of this amount of Rs. 38.70 crores, Rs. 9.78 crores has been invested in 10 Cooperative Banks. Three Cooperative Banks, wherein a sum of Rs. 1.90 crores has been invested, are regularly paying interest on deposits. However, in the case of another three Cooperatie Banks, wherein a sum of Rs. 2.14 crores has been invested, the Reserve Bank of India has preculded them from making payment in excess of the amount specified in the directive issued by them, as these Banks are facing liquidity crunch. Further, Reserve Bank of India has stated that in respect of the remaining four Cooperative Banks, which are also facing liquidity crunch, the Society is free to take legal action against them. The Committee of Management in its meeting held on 21st April, 94 has